

Draft Baltimore Harbor and Channels Dredged Material Management Plan and Tiered Environmental Impact Statement

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LEAD AGENCY

U.S. Department of Defense

TITLE Baltimore Harbor and Channels Dredged Material Management Plan and Draft Tiered Environmental Impact Statement.

CONTACT

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ABSTRACT

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District has prepared a Draft Tiered Environmental Impact Statement (DTEIS) and Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) to analyze dredged material placement for the Port of Baltimore for 20 years of maintenance and new work dredging. USACE is making the document available to the public for review and comment through a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register. The overall goal of the DMMP is to develop a plan to maintain, in an economically and environmentally sound manner, channels necessary for navigation for the Port of Baltimore, conduct dredged material placement in the most environmentally sound manner, and maximize the use of dredged material as a beneficial resource. The recommendations that will provide a minimum of 20 years of dredged material placement capacity for the Port of Baltimore are:

- Continued use of open water placement in Virginia (Dam Neck Open Water Placement; Rappahannock Shoal Deep Alternate Open Water Placement; Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement).
- Optimized use of existing dredged material management sites in Maryland, including Pooles Island Open Water Site, Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility, Cox Creek Confined Disposal Facility and Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project (PIERP).
- Multiple confined disposal facilities for harbor material in Patapsco River.
- Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project (PIERP) Expansion.
- Large Island Restoration-Middle Chesapeake Bay.
- Wetland Restoration-Dorchester County.

AVAILABILITY

Copies are available for public review at the following public reading rooms.

- (1) Queen Anne's Public Library, Stevensville Branch, 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD 21666
- (2) Essex County Public Library, 1110 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21221
- (3) Anne Arundel County Public Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
- (4) St. Mary's County Public Library, 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650
- (5) Somerset County Public Library, 11767 Beachwood St, Princess Anne, MD 21853
- (6) Dorchester County Public Library, 303 Gay St, Cambridge, MD 21613

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Department of the Army encourages public participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register in May 2002 and scoping meetings were held in June 2002. The public was invited to provide oral comments at the scoping meetings and to submit additional comments to the Baltimore District.

Two public meetings will be held in March 2005 for the Baltimore Harbor and Channels Dredged Material Management Plan and Draft EIS document. The first public meeting on the draft will be held at Queen Annes Public Library, Stevensville Branch, 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, Maryland 21666, on Monday March 7, 2005 beginning at 7 p.m. The second public meeting will be held at Essex Community College, 7201 Rossville Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21237 in the Lecture Hall Building J on the first floor, on Thursday March 10, 2005 beginning at 7 p.m. Staff will be available one hour prior to meeting start time. Both meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to present oral and/or written comments. All persons and organizations that have an interest in the DMMP are urged to participate in one or both meetings.

The USACE must receive comments on or before March 28, 2005, to ensure consideration in the final plan. Please send written comments concerning this report to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Mr. Mark Mendelsohn, Planning Division, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203. Telephone: (410)1-800-295-1610. 962-9499 or Please submit electronic comments mark.mendelsohn@usace.army.mil. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; please do not attach any files. Please include your name and address in your message. You may view the Draft TEIS and related information on our web page at http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/DMMP/index.html. USACE has distributed copies of the Draft TEIS to appropriate members of Congress, State and local government officials, Federal agencies, and other interested parties.

After the public comment period ends on March 28, 2005, USACE will consider all comments received. The Draft TEIS will be revised as appropriate and a Final TEIS will be issued.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AE&D advance engineering and design

AIC Artificial Island Creation

AIRFA American Indian Religious Freedom Act

APE area of potential effect

ASMFC Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

bcy billion cubic yards

BEWG Bay Enhancement Working Group
B-IBI Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity

BMP best management practice

bp before present

bu bushels

C&D Chesapeake and Delaware

CAA Clean Air Act

CAC Citizens' Advisory Committee

CAD confined aquatic disposal
CDF confined disposal facility
CBP Chesapeake Bay Program

CBBMP Chesapeake Bay Benthic Monitoring Program

CBBT Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

CBSAC Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee

CE cost effectiveness analysis

CENAB U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
CENAO U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District

CENAP U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District

CERCLIS Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information

System

CHKOH Chickahominy River
CO carbon monoxide

CQE Council on Environmental Quality

CRRMH Corrotoman River
CWA Clean Water Act

cy cubic yard dB decibel

dBA weighted-A decibel scale
DMA Dredged Material Area

DMCF Dredged Material Containment Facility

DMMP Dredged Material Management Program

DN disseminated neoplasia

DO dissolved oxygen

E endangered

E&S erosion and sedimentation

EFH essential fish habitat

EIS Environmental Impact Statement

EPCRA Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act

EPW Evaluation for Planned Wetlands

ER Engineering Regulation
ESA Endangered Species Act
ESC Erosion and Soil Control

ETM Estuarine Turbidity Maximum

FE federally endangered

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

FPP Farmland Protection Policy
FMP Fishery Management Plan

FT federally threatened

ft/s feet/second

FWCA Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
GIS Geographic Information System

gpm gallons per minute

GRR General Re-evaluation Report

HAPC Habitat Areas of Potential Concern

HEP Habitat Evaluation Procedure

HMI Hart-Miller Island

HTRS hazardous, toxic, and radioactive substance
HTRW hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste

HUD Department of Housing and Urban Development

ICA incremental cost analysis
ITM Inland Testing Manual

ITR Independent Technical Review

lf linear feet

LID low-impact development

LIR Large Island Restoration

LWCFA Land and Water Conservation Fund Act

ma million years ago

MAFMC Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

MACEJ Maryland Advisory Council on Environmental Justice

MBWSR Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

mcy millions in cubic yards

MD DNR Maryland Department of Natural Resources

MDE Maryland Department of the Environment

mg/L milligrams per liter

MGS Maryland Geological Survey

MHT Maryland Historic Trust

MinRAM Minnesota Routine Assessment Method for Evaluating Wetland Functions

MLLW mean lower low water

MNRP Maryland Natural Resources Police
MPA Maryland Port Administration

MPRSA Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act

msl mean sea level

NAAQS national ambient air quality standard

NAGPRA Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

NAS Naval Air Station

NCDC National Climatic Data Center

NCDEHNR North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA National Historic Preservation Act

nm nautical miles

NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOB natural oyster bar

Norfolk DMA Norfolk Ocean Dredged Material Area

NOx nitrogen oxides

NPL National Priorities List
NPS National Park Service

NRCS Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP National Register of Historic Places

NWR National Wildlife Refuge

O&M operation and maintenance

MNR Ministry of Natural Resources

PA Preliminary Assessment

PADEP Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PAHs polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

PELs probable effects levels
PGL Planning Guidance Letter

PIERP Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project

PM particulate matter

PMP Project Management Plan
PPA Pollution Prevention Act
psu practical salinity unit

QA/QC quality assurance/quality control

RCRIS Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System

ROD Record of Decision

RPPMH Lower Rappahannock River

RPPTF Upper Rappahannock River

RTE rare, threatened, and endangered

SAFMC South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

SAV submerged aquatic vegetation

SC special concern sf square feet

SHPO State Historic Preservation Office

SIR Small Island Restoration

SOx sulfur oxides

SNS shortnose sturgeon

SRBC Susquehanna River Basin Commission
SSPRA Sensitive Species Project Review Areas

SWH shallow water habitat

T threatened
TCE trichloroethene

TELs threshold effects levels
TMDL total maximum daily load

TOC total organic carbon

TPH total petroleum hydrocarbons

TRI Toxic Release Inventory
TSS total suspended solids

U.S. EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

VADEQ Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

VDCR Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

VESCL&R Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law, Regulations, and

Certification Regulations

VIMS Virginia Institute of Marine Science

VMRC Virginia Marine Resources Commission

VNRHP Virginia Natural Resources Heritage Program

VOC volatile organic compound

WCSC Waterborne Commerce Statistical Center

WET wetland evaluation technique

WQI Wetland Quality Index

WRAP Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure
WRDA Water Resources Development Act

WWTP wastewater treatment plant

TMDL total maximum daily load

TOC total organic carbon

TPH total petroleum hydrocarbons
TRI Toxic Release Inventory
TSS total suspended solids

U.S. EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

USACE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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VADEQ Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

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VESCL&R Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law, Regulations, and

Certification Regulations

VIMS Virginia Institute of Marine Science
VMRC Virginia Marine Resources Commission

VNRHP Virginia Natural Resources Heritage Program

VOC volatile organic compound

WCSC Waterborne Commerce Statistical Center

WET wetland evaluation technique

WQI Wetland Quality Index

WRAP Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure
WRDA Water Resources Development Act

WWTP wastewater treatment plant

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